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**Vrakas Announces Cost Saving Measures at Ice Arenas**

Waukesha, WIS. – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas signed an ordinance yesterday to replace existing metal halide lighting with linear florescent lighting at the county's two ice arenas to conserve energy and reduce operating costs. The installation of energy efficient lights is estimated to save \$10,000 per calendar year.

Vrakas says, "I am proud to sign this cost savings measure into law and save our taxpayers real, ongoing dollars by replacing lights in our ice arenas. This simple change in operations will have an impact for years to come."

The total cost to purchase and install the replacement lighting at Eble and Naga-Waukee Ice Arenas should not exceed \$44,200. It will be funded through a combination of electricity cost savings up to \$5,000 for the current partial year, \$5,900 in qualifying rebates, and the appropriation of \$34,300 of Ice Arena fund balance.

The Department of Parks and Land Use, which oversees ice arena operations, estimates that the investment in linear florescent lighting will have a payback of less than 3.8 years.

"I would like to commend departmental staff for their help in identifying efficiencies with this project," stated Vrakas. "Their efforts are consistent with the Sustainability Initiative that I launched earlier this year, which charges employees with examining our current operations and recommending environmentally friendly and cost effective alternatives."

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